



Students in the New Signers Program converse during sign language class at Merrill Learning Center. Forty-eight new freshmen, transfer, preparatory, and visiting students are enrolled in the program this summer.

## New students and faculty receive intensive orientation to Gallaudet

The New Signers Program (NSP) and the New Faculty Orientation (NFO) program, two annual courses that are essential for acclimating new students and faculty to the Gallaudet community, are currently underway on Kendall Green.

NSP, which is conducted through the Department of Student Affairs, began July 25 and runs through Friday, Aug. 18. NFO, sponsored by the Department of Sign Communication, began June 15 and ends Thursday, Aug. 17.

Both are intensive, all-day programs for incoming students and faculty, who know very little or nothing about sign language, to provide them with enough signing skills so they can effectively communicate in class and in other situations when fall classes begin. The new students and faculty are also exposed to workshops, social events, and other activities in which they interact with deaf people to help them learn about deaf culture.

Norma Buemi, coordinator of para-professional and orientation programs in Student Affairs, said that 48 transfer, preparatory, new freshmen, and visiting students—which she said is an average number for the program—are enrolled in NSP this year. The students are divided into five levels of classes, depending on their background in sign communication. The students also take the Discovery program, an outdoor course designed to build self-confidence, self-esteem, and teamwork skills.

Buemi said that dormitory advisers conduct evening and weekend activities for students, where they interact with deaf students in pastimes such as trips

to the beach, bowling, and skits in sign language.

Willard Madsen, an associate professor of Sign Communication, said that new faculty are “not expected to be experts” in sign language, since the course is for only eight weeks, but “they are expected to know enough sign to get along [conducting classroom lectures] when they start in the fall.” He added that new faculty increase their signing proficiency by attending classes throughout the year.

New faculty begin the course with a week-long silent retreat, then attend sign language classes on Kendall Green, where they are drilled on approximately 1,000 signs plus the visual grammar that is important for effective sign communication, said Madsen.

New faculty are also encouraged to interact socially with deaf people on campus to give them insights on deaf culture. Madsen hosts an annual cookout at his home so that new faculty are given a first-hand opportunity to learn about deaf people’s home lives.

Madsen said that to meet criticism that has surfaced in recent years that new faculty aren’t skilled enough in sign communication to begin teaching classes in the fall, the program has been revised somewhat so that faculty spend less time in orientation sessions and more time in sign classes.

“I think [the program] has a good balance this summer,” said Madsen. “Each group is different each year and has different rates of learning, so one cannot predict what will happen from one year to the next. But I think this year’s group is doing well and I have confidence that they will do well at the outset of the [fall] semester.”

## Parsons returns for celebration of deaf education in the Bahamas

When one teacher in the Bahamas oral system of deaf education told her students a deaf woman would teach her “to talk with her hands” and that she would then teach them, the students exclaimed, “A deaf woman to teach you?”

That was in April 1972, and Frances Parsons was the first signing, speaking, college educated, and fully employed deaf adult that the deaf Bahamian students had ever seen.

Parsons, who is an associate professor of art history and the coordinator of international history collections at the Gallaudet University Library, traveled back to the Bahamas this June for the 25th anniversary celebration of the Bahamas Red Cross Centre for Deaf Children, where she accepted an award for her contribution to the education of deaf students there.

“When I first visited the classes in Nassau and Freeport, every child was rigidly oral-trained so frustration, impatience, tantrums, and perpetual misunderstandings were rampant between teachers and pupils,” said Parsons.

Even so, educators in the Bahamas doubted that sign language could be combined with speech and that both could be used in their classrooms, she said. But these educators were “impressed by the fact that my using sign language did not stop me from talking verbally,” said Parsons. “I gave credit [for my speaking ability] to the combined method practiced at the Berkeley School for the Deaf in 1932,” she said.

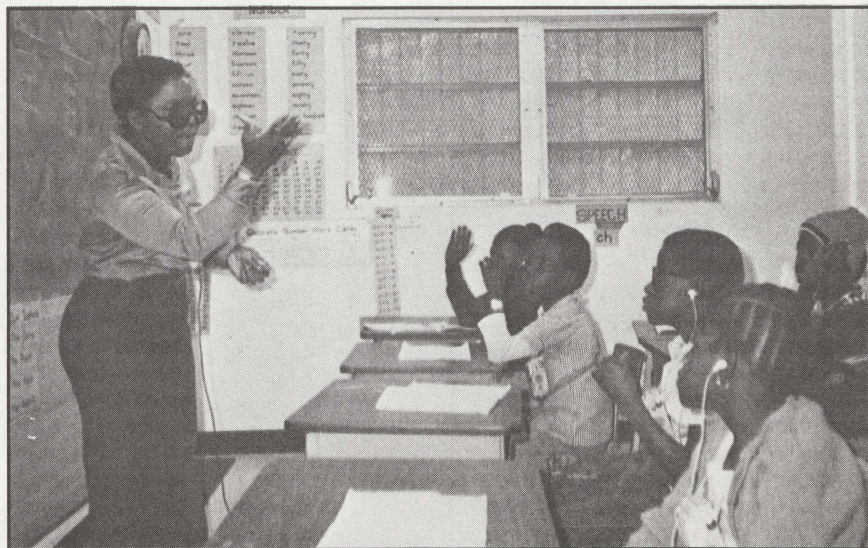
By the time she left the Bahamas that spring, Parsons had convinced some educators of deaf children in the Bahamas to try the Total Communication method (using sign language and speech simultaneously) in their class-

rooms. And by December 1972, she was returning to the Bahamas at the request of its Ministry of Education to teach a two-week sign language class to a school principal and eight teachers of deaf children, to visit mainstream classrooms that had deaf students, and to teach sign at some Parent Teacher Association meetings. The Bahamian government would arrange two more such trips for her.

Initially, the educators did not want to use sign language with their hard of hearing students, said Parsons. But the deaf students responded so successfully to the Total Communication method that one teacher tried using it with her hard of hearing students. “Two students had long been branded as hopeless, but suddenly they flowered and then the rest of her class accelerated in learning,” said Parsons. Now, all Bahamian deaf children are given equal opportunities regardless of their levels of hearing loss and intelligence, she said.

Today, Bahamian deaf adults have their own social club and work as dressmakers, cosmetologists, construction workers, hotel workers, mechanics, electricians, bookkeepers, and computer operators, said Parsons. Education for deaf students in the Bahamas has come a long way since the first principal of the Bahamas Red Cross Centre for Deaf Children searched city and country roads for the deaf children of the ‘60s rubella epidemic that Bahamian families tended to hide away.

Of her most recent visit and honor, Parsons said, “It was gratifying to see those who, once the most frustrated oral-trained pupils, are now grown men and women happily signing hours away.”



Ruth Pratt, one of Frances Parsons’ first Bahamian sign language students, teaches a class in 1972. Pratt later earned a master’s in school counseling at Gallaudet and still works in the Bahamas.



Pre-College Programs Dean Michael Deninger presents Jack Gannon's Deaf Heritage to Labelle Industries, Inc., Vice President Glenn Shulz and his wife Beth in thanks for Labelle's \$10,000 gift of message display equipment to MSSD.

## Among Ourselves

Career counselors Daphne Cox-McGregor and Carolyn McCaskill-Emerson presented the paper "The Career Peer Advisor Program at The Gallaudet University Career Center" on Aug. 1 at the 17th International Congress of Educators of the Deaf, held July 29-Aug. 3 in Rochester, N.Y. The paper described the model program, the first of its kind to serve deaf and hard of hearing students.

Dr. Michael Deninger, dean of Pre-College Programs; Dr. Margaret Hallau, director of the Center for Curriculum Development, Research, and Evaluation; and Linda Delk, coordinator of Research and Evaluation, presented "Models for Improving Student Achievement: Curriculum Development and Academic Progress at Kendall Demonstration Elementary School and the Model Secondary School for the Deaf at Gallaudet University" at the 17th International Congress of Educators of the Deaf.

Dr. Trent Batson, director of the Electronic Networks for Interaction project in the English Department, has

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received a U.S. Department of Education grant to fund the proposal "Teaming With Text." The grant award is \$73,251 for 18 months—Aug. 15, 1990 to Feb. 14, 1992. These federal funds will finance 78.5 percent of the project; the remainder will be financed through non-governmental sources. Gallaudet's Office of Sponsored Programs assisted Batson in pursuing the federal funding.

Gina Oliva, director of the Department of Physical Education and Recreation's Aerobic Fitness and Training of the Deaf program, was a featured presenter at the recent annual "National Wellness Institute," sponsored by the University of Wisconsin. In addition to leading an aerobic workout at the seminar, Oliva presented "The American Deaf Community and Wellness" and "An Introduction to American Sign Language."

Pre-College Programs' Outreach Services gave a number of presentations earlier this month. Information about "Arts in Action," which generates awareness for arts education in schools, was given by Tim McCarty, artistic director for MSSD's Performing Arts Program, at the Conference of Educational Administrators Serving the Deaf at the 17th International Congress of Educators of the Deaf (ICED) in Rochester, N.Y., Aug. 1. On Aug. 2, Janne Harrelson, Outreach planning coordinator, conducted a poster session at ICED on opportunities for intercultural student exchange. At The National Conference of American Alliance for Theatre and Education and the Association for Theatre and Disability, in Minneapolis, Minn., Aug 4-8, McCarty presented a workshop on creating plays through consensus, a process developed at MSSD. MSSD staff Marilyn Farmer, a social studies teacher, Matthew Goedecke, coordinator of the Special Opportunities Program (SOP), David Schleper, reading/writing specialist, and Patricia Yates, an SOP program assistant, presented a seminar Aug. 6-9 at the Sterck School for the Hearing Impaired in Newark, Del., on staff/faculty programs on instructional strategies to increase academic achievement of deaf students.

## Staff development courses promote personal and professional growth

Gallaudet University staff members will have a number of opportunities to enhance their job-related skills this fall as the staff development program begins its second year as a priority program here.

The one- and two-day workshops planned for the fall semester are divided into three categories: office support staff, managers and supervisors, and campus-wide staff. Classes will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 4 p.m. Because most of the workshops are limited to 25 participants, staff members should register early. Most of the workshops will be repeated in the spring, however, to give employees a second chance to attend the class of their choice.

For supervisors and managers a new Managing Diversity workshop, offered Dec. 6, will help them recognize the benefits of cultural diversity in the workplace, the barriers that exist to managing cultural differences, and some skills to use in overcoming those barriers.

The new course Notetaking for Committee Meetings will introduce interested office support staff members to a number of effective notetaking styles that can make taking notes in meetings easier. The class is tentatively planned for Sept. 12. Through Communication Skills for Office Support Staff, offered Oct. 10, employees can explore the

differences between aggressive, assertive, and passive communication styles and learn techniques for presenting themselves and their ideas in an assertive manner.

Also new this fall are three workshops that are open to all staff members. One such program is Leading Productive Meetings, to be held Oct. 24. Participants in this workshop will learn practical strategies for improving the quality of meetings that they either conduct or attend.

Two other workshops that may be of interest to all staff members are Managing Change on Oct. 30 and Dealing with Anger and Criticism offered Nov. 28-29. In the former, staff members will learn techniques that will help them to manage change better in both their professional and personal lives. The latter will help participants deal more effectively with anger and criticism both at work and at home. Topics to be discussed include hidden aggressors and techniques for "fighting fair."

Staff members will soon receive brochures through campus mail that describe all the course offerings. Anyone who would like more information should call Kayt Lewis, coordinator of employee development and relations, at x5263, or stop by the Office of Administrative and Community Services, College Hall, Room 4.

## Classified Ads

**CLASSIFIED ADS** are printed free as a service to Gallaudet faculty and staff. They must be submitted in writing only to *On the Green*, MSSD, Room G-37. Ads may be run for a maximum of two weeks, if requested and if space permits. Ads received by Aug. 17 will appear in the Aug. 27 issue.

**FOR SALE:** Sanyo Super Beta VCR, \$100. Call Ceil, x5084.

**FOR SALE:** Grey, 21-in. Ross (Enhancer) 10-speed bicycle, good cond., \$100/BO; off-white drapes for large sliding glass doors, 172 in. wide x 80 in. long, \$40/BO. Call Lauri Rush, x5260, or E-Mail LLRUSH.

**FOR SALE:** Kenmore washer and electric dryer, \$50/both; '80 Toyota Corolla SR5

Liftback, 2 dr., 5 speed, AC, sunroof, new clutch, 114K mi., \$1,000; '83 Toyota Celica Supra, black, 5 speed, sunroof, alarm, new tires, set of snow tires, 142K mi., \$4,000; '85 Buick Century Custom, 4-dr. sedan, 2-tone blue metallic, auto., V6, AC, new tires, 42K mi., \$4,000; must sell all. Call Chapman, x4217.

**FOR SALE:** 2-piece, L-shaped sectional sofa in beige cut velvet, seats 6, \$150. Call Loraine, x5052 (TDD), or 386-5886 (TDD) eves.

**FOR SALE:** Queen-size bed, exc. cond., make offer. Call Paul, 547-1347 (V/TDD), or leave phone number in MSSD Box 24.

**WANTED:** Babysitter needed for 3-mo.-old deaf boy on Kendall Green campus 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Aug. 27-June 14. Call Jen or Wilton, x5413 or x5310.

**FOR RENT:** Nice, spacious house in Greenbelt, Md., 5 BRs, 3 1/2 baths, W/D, AC, DW, 2-car garage, fireplace, w/w carpet, close to 95 and 295, no smokers or pets, ideal for family or group to share, security deposit required, avail. Sept. 1, \$1,700/mo. plus util. Call Marybeth, 345-5788 (TDD).

**WANTED:** Mature Gallaudet graduate student w/experience as auto mechanic seeks work on cars; will do brake and electrical work, tune ups, etc. Call Aldon Fruge, 794-6712 (TDD).

**WANTED:** Nonsmoker to share townhouse in Bowie, Md., about 25-min. drive to Kendall Green, must like pet ferret, \$250/mo. inc. util. Call 344-2389 (TDD).

## DOSS reports criminal activities

The following criminal activities at Gallaudet from July 25 to Aug. 4 were reported by the Department of Safety and Security (DOSS). Crimes such as minor vandalism, simple assaults, and petty thefts occurring in predominately student areas have been omitted. No suspects were identified unless otherwise noted.

- 7/25—\$10 was taken from a desk in the Main Hall of Northwest Campus.

- 8/2—An unattended wallet containing \$170 was taken from the snack bar area of Ely Center.

- 8/4—Two people were arrested following an investigation by DOSS that showed that one person was wanted on a felony bench warrant from the San Diego, Calif., police department, and the other person possessed drug paraphernalia. Neither individual was a member of the Gallaudet community.

- 8/6—A Northern Telecom multiline telephone was taken from the MSSD main library.

## Job Openings

**Some of the advertised positions may already be filled.** The list below includes only new staff and faculty openings and does not represent all jobs available. To get a recorded message describing the complete list, call x5358 or x5359 (TDD).

PLACEMENT COUNSELOR I: Career Center  
CAREER COUNSELOR I: Career Center